

GUIDELINES FOR FOOD DONATIONS

This document has been developed to provide guidance on safe food donation during COVID-19. For current updates on COVID-19: <https://lambtonpublichealth.ca/2019-novel-coronavirus/>. Contact Lambton Public Health at 1-800-667-1839 or vulnerablepopulations@county-lambton.on.ca.

Evidence of transmission of COVID-19 through contact with food products is limited; however, efforts should be made to reduce transmission risk when handling food donations. If you are planning to donate food items, there are a few easy steps you can take to help further reduce the risk of COVID-19 and other health concerns. Thank you for helping our community respond to the impacts of COVID-19.

Donations

Consider donating certain products that reduce the risk for COVID-19 and other food-related illness:

- Money or gifts cards for the purchase of food items directly from a grocery store.
- Pre-packaged food such as cereal, rice or pasta, canned goods, and uncut fruit and vegetables.
- Non-perishable food items may be requested for donations as they can be kept for longer than perishable ones. You can also contact your local food bank for specific items that they may need.
- Personal care items such as soap or toothpaste.

If you are sick, please postpone donating until you are feeling better and contact the food bank for other arrangements.

Driveway or Porch Pick-up

- Wash or sanitize your hands before and after handling donations.
- Place donations outside, sheltered if possible, to limit people entering your house.
- When volunteers arrive to pick up donations, maintain physical distancing of at least 2 metres. Use non-physical forms of greeting.

Donation Drop-off

- Wash or sanitize your hands before and after handling donations.
- Only drive with individuals within your household and do not participate if you feel at all unwell.
- Follow volunteer guidance and signage at the drop-off location to inform on flow of traffic, physical distancing measures, and personal hygiene measures.
- Ensure donations are placed in a vehicle free of debris so volunteers may easily access the donation if they are unloading them.

Are you organizing a food drive? Please review our Guidance for Emergency Food Providers:

<https://lambtonpublichealth.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/COVID-19-GUIDANCE-FOR-EMERGENCY-FOOD-PROVIDERS-25AUG2020.pdf>.